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Borough of Morpeth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1959



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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1959.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present to you, my report for the year 1959.

The vital statistics are again satisfactory. The birth rate, still-birth rate and death rate are all better than the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

The infantile mortality rate rose to 27.03 per 1,000 live births and is, therefore, higher than the national average but the numbers involved are so small that an increase of one in the total number of deaths of infants under 1 year has increased the death rate by 5 per 1,000 births.

There was, unfortunately, an increase of 4 in the number of new notified cases of tuberculosis as compared with the previous year but there were no deaths from this disease.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms in males were reduced by 5 but deaths among females increased by 4, giving a nett reduction of only one. The death rate from this cause is slightly lower in Morpeth than in the country as a whole.

Apart from the unusually large epidemic of Measles, notifications of infectious disease were again few in number.

The Council is, I think, to be congratulated on its vigorous slum clearance policy which has in four years dealt with 143 houses of which 91 have been either demolished or permanently closed to human habitation. Only 24 households from the 143 houses still awaited re-housing at the end of 1959.

The Council has also re-housed many families from the Common Camp and at the end of the year, only 26 huts were still occupied.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Council for the consideration shown to me and to express my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from the various departments of the Council and, in particular, from the Public Health Inspectors whose work, though often unnoticed, goes on all the time, quietly, efficiently and conscientiously.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. MCGREGOR M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
Borough of Morpeth

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B MCGREGOR. M.B., Ch., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	FRANK K. PERKINS M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional P.H. Inspector (Meat)	J. G. SIMPSON M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	36, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Telephone.	Morpeth 36.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

According to the estimate of the Registrar-General the population of the Borough at mid-1959 was 11,730, an increase of 390 from the previous year. Between mid-1956 and mid-1959 the population has increased by 1,040, which is quite a substantial figure for a comparatively small town.

Since 1955, private enterprise building has provided 386 houses and the Council has built 195, making a total of about 600 new houses in five years. This has changed the face of the town and a considerable area of the surrounding countryside greatly, but all the development has taken place to the south and south-east while to the north there has been little change.

Slum Clearance, too, has contributed to Morpeth's altered appearance and further changes are to be expected from this cause and from the proposed erection of an additional 500 houses by private enterprise and more Council houses.

It is to be hoped that the Borough will manage to retain its character as a market town with a thriving and independent community spirit.

There has been no change in the types of employment open to the population.

The town continues to attract many visitors during the summer months and to be a "bottle-neck" for the every increasing road traffic which passes up and down the Great North Road.

Area in Acres	2,213
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1959	11,730
One Penny Rate Produces	£549-6-1d
Rateable Value	£137,904
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959)	3,420

VITAL STATISTICS. (The figures in brackets are the figures for E. & W.)

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	108	107	215
Illegitimate	4	3	7
	<u>112</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>222</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	18.93
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.04)	19.68 (16.5)

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4
	1	"	4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	17.7 (20.7)
Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.34

DEATHS.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
167	77	90

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	14.24
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.73)	10.4 (11.6)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Prenancy, Childbirth Abortion,	Nil (0.38)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	27.03 (22.0)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	27.91
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	2	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	22.52	
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 week	2	2

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	18.02
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	35.4

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH 1959.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	-
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	2
11. " " Lung and Bronchus	1	1
12. " " Breast	-	2
13. " " Uterus	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	17
18. Coronary Disease (Angina)	15	7
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	-
20. Other Heart Diseases	22	25
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	6	6
24. Bronchitis	3	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis, Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	6	13
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
34. All other Accidents	1	5
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War.	-	-
	77	90

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1959.

Causes.	Total Number	% of total Deaths,
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.	75	44.91
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	24	14.31
Malignant Neoplasms.	19	11.38
	118	70.60

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	Under 1 day	1-6 dys	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	TOTAL under 1 month	1-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-12 mths	TOTAL under 1 year.
Prematurity	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Birth Injury	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Total.....	-	4	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	1	6

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Infantile Deaths under 1 year.	7	5	7	3	8	4	7	2	5	6
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	34.48	23.81	33.49	15.79	38.10	19.51	34.48	10.31	22.03	27.0

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimens sent by.	Specimens	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	4	not available.
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	2	3

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council which is the local health authority. Six drivers are employed at the Morpeth Depot where there are three ambulances and a sitting case car.

The area served includes the Borough of Morpeth, the western part of the Morpeth Rural District and parts of the Castle Ward Rural District.

Nursing in the Home.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

Three nurses are stationed in Morpeth. Their work includes both general nursing and midwifery, and they serve the Borough and adjacent parts of the Morpeth Rural District.

Maternal and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Health Centre in Gashouse Lane. The services include Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics and dental treatment for school and pre-school children and expectant mothers.

A Child Welfare Centre is held once a month at Common Camp, Morpeth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Corporation possesses its own water undertaking and the supply is augmented by water purchased from Tynemouth Corporation. The water from both sources is chlorinated, the supply from Tynemouth Corporation being treated by them before it enters the district.

The Morpeth Corporation supply which is obtained from boreholes at Gubeon and Tranwell is pumped into storage reservoirs, followed by filtration and chlorination before passing into the distributing mains and mixing with Tynemouth supply. Owing to a very dry summer, some curtailment of the supply was necessary for a short period in respect of watering of gardens, but otherwise no real scarcity was experienced.

The pumping and treatment apparatus was given due attention during the year to maintain a good quality of drinking water.

An extension of the water supply system, necessitated by the erection of 78 houses in the Kirkhill Estate was completed in September at an estimated cost of £2125.

In anticipation of the erection of a further eighty Council houses at Spelvit Lane, work began on an extension of the water supply system in this area and was about $\frac{1}{3}$ complete by the end of the year. The estimated cost of this scheme was £2163.

Bacteriological Examination of Water.

During the year twelve samples of drinking water were procured from various points in the Borough, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne for bacteriological examination, and all were reported satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Water.

One sample of drinking water was submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. The analysts report is as follows:-

Chemical Results.	Parts per million.
Total Solids dried at 180°C	185
Chlorine as Chlorides	19.5
Free Ammonia	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia	Trace
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.04
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	3.6
Total Hardness	161
Non-carbonate Hardness	60
Carbonate Hardness	101
Lead and Copper	None
Iron	0.02
Appearance and colour (Hazen degrees 20)	Clear and ex. pale yellow
Snell and Taste	Satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory
P.H. Value	7.2

Report:- This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity. The addition of the borehole water has resulted in a mixture of good colour and the water is free from deposit, odour and taste.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for Public Supply

(signed) W. Gordon Carey.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ending 31st December, 1959

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal proceedings.
<u>Housing.</u>							
Structural defects.	368	37	14	37	-	-	-
Defective food store	11	3	3	3	(8 in Slum Clearance		
Dampness	10	2	2	2	Areas)		"
Overcrowding	8	Slum Clearance Area.					
<hr/>							
<u>Water Supply.</u>							
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
<hr/>							
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>							
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective	14	6	-	6	(8 in Slum Clearance		
					Area)		
<hr/>							
<u>Drainage</u>							
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective	13	5	-	5	(8 in Slum Clearance		
					Area)		
<hr/>							
<u>General.</u>							
Shops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food premises	480	16	-	16	-	-	-
Milk distributors	44	1	-	1	-	-	-
Slaughter houses	638	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tents, Vans etc.,	32	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive trades	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	30	1	-	1	-	-	-
Insanitary refuse bins	147	103	8	103	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations	3	2	-	2	-	-	-
Smoke nuisances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>							
Totals.	1,799	177	27	177	-	-	-

Complaints.

During the year under review, two hundred and seventeen complaints were recorded, all of which were dealt with. Once more, no statutory action was necessary in seeking abatement of nuisances or repairs to properties all matters being amicably settled after personal approach and informal notice from the Public Health Inspector.

Other Visits and Inspections under the Public Health Act 1936.

New building sites	79
Drainage works	188
Sewage disposal works	70
Refuse disposal grounds	66
Public conveniences	75
Disinfections	13
Disinfestations	21
Licensed premises	6
Markets	13
Schools	4
Rivers and streams	19
Courts, yards & passages	50
Place of public entertainment	8
Miscellaneous visits	30

Smoke Abatement.

There were no cases of excessive emission of industrial smoke, recorded during the year.

Verminous Premises.

There were eleven complaints of insect infestations recorded during the year, all of which were successfully dealt with. The types of infestation encountered are shown hereunder.

Species	Number.
Bed Bugs	2
Cockroaches	5
Fleas	1
Woodworm	3

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are two licensed pet shops on the Borough Register, the licenses for which are renewed annually. The premises were periodically inspected during the year and no contraventions of the regulations were found.

Rag Flock Act, 1951

There are no premises dealing with rag flock on the Borough Register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The destruction of rats and mice received full attention throughout the year. All complaints received, involving domestic and business premises were inspected and where necessary, treatments devised and carried out. In addition, special and general surveys were made of the Borough to discover any unreported infestations. Farms were also given due attention. The refuse disposal ground at Deuchar Park received particular attention to prevent the rat population in this area from spreading, and many successful treatments were carried out.

The sewerage system was given a bi-annual treatment in accordance with grant requirements.

Some details of the work done under the Act are shown in the following table:-

SURFACE TREATMENT.

	L.A. (Council -Props)	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises	Agric. Crops.	Total.
Inspections	119	1158	471	15	1763
Treatments	14	35	2	-	51
Notices Served	-	-	1	-	1
Notices complied with	-	-	1	-	1

Destruction of Moles

Destruction of moles is carried out by a specialist in this work, who is retained by the Council. Rather less trouble was experienced over the past year, than in previous years and such outbreaks as were reported were promptly dealt with.

Destruction of Domestic Animals.

During the year, four domestic animals were disposed of by the Health Department, at the request of the Police Authority.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewerage and drainage systems in the Borough were extended during the year to deal with the new houses being built by private enterprise.

The work of re-organising and enlarging the sewage disposal works was, by the end of the year, half-way towards completion and it is hoped that the new plant will come into service in 1960

Refuse Collection and Street Cleaning.

Refuse is collected daily by direct labour and deposited at Deuchar Park tipping site. This site is rapidly nearing completion and negotiations are in hand for a new site.

Street cleaning is also done by direct labour. The litter problem is still a troublesome one and much time is spent in coping with this matter.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wansbeck and other streams flowing through the Borough were frequently inspected during the year for pollution or nuisance. Apart from the usual deposits of rubbish and debris, no other nuisance was noted. Periodic removal of these deposits was carried out.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Borough but the North Common is now the site of a considerable colony of permanently occupied caravans. All the caravans are of an approved type and applications for permission to park there are considered individually by the Council. Main water is available and there is a limited amount of drainage which was installed for the hutted camp erected on the site during the war. No other development of the site for caravans has, so far, taken place.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

Schools

There are five Primary Schools, one Secondary School, one Grammar School for boys, one Grammar School for girls and one Commercial College for boys and girls, in the Borough. Inspections were made from time to time of the sanitary conveniences, cooking facilities and food stores and the standard of hygiene was found satisfactory.

The projected modernisation of the sanitary conveniences of one school were completed during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of			
	Number on Register	Written Notices	Inspections	Occupiers Prosecuted.
a) Factories in which Sects. 2, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	1	14	-
b) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	44	1	22	-
c) Other Premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	5	-	-	-
Total.....	53	2	36	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
Want of Cleanness.....	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature.....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient.....	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or Defective.....	1	1	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (excluding outworkers' premises.	1	1	-	1	-
Totals.....	3	3	-	3	-

SECTION D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1959.

Houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority.	12
b) By other bodies or persons.	70

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	24
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	Nil
3. Houses closed, not demolished.	16
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Act

1. By informal action.	21
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil
4. Demolition orders revoked after reconstruction.	Nil

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation.	Nil
--	-----

A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority.	12
2. Applications rejected.	-
3. Applications approved	12
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£100
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme.	118

B. STANDARD GRANTS.

1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year.	6
2. Number of houses so provided with:	
a) Bath or shower	3
b) Wash Hand Basin	3
c) Hot Water Supply	3
d) Water Closet	3
e) Food Store	2

Slum Clearance

No further Slum Clearance Areas were dealt with during 1959 owing to a temporary cessation of Council House building, but towards the end of the year preparations were in hand for dealing with a further three Areas involving twenty houses. Demolition Orders were made on two individual unfit dwellings and Closing Orders were made in respect of another 17 dwellings.

Twenty-four houses in confirmed Clearance Areas were demolished during the year. Three of the houses which were the subjects of Closing Orders were retained by the owners for business purposes.

A scheme is in course of preparation for additional Council houses to enable the families in slum dwellings to be re-housed.

The Council's Slum Clearance programme has proceeded much more speedily than was originally anticipated. From its commencement up to the end of 1959, the necessary legal action, either by Clearance Orders or Demolition or Closing Orders, has been taken in respect of 143 houses, of which, 53 have actually been demolished and 38 have been closed. At the end of the year, 24 households in Clearance Areas or individual unfit houses still awaited re-housing while 26 families were still living in huts on the Common Camp.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

All milk now sold in the Borough is either Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or sterilised. At the end of the year there were seven dealers licences in operation for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, ten dealers licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk and ten dealers licences for the sale of sterilised Milk

There was also one supplementary Licence issued for the sale of Pasteurised Milk, to a dealer from Outside the Borough. Milk dealers premises were visited throughout the year and found generally satisfactory. One dealer installed a new large capacity refrigerator on his premises.

Ten samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and testing for processing. Eight satisfied the test and two failed the test, one by a narrow margin.

Ice Cream Regulations.

At the end of the year there were forty two premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice-cream. One vendor occasionally prepared, on his premises, ice-cream which is of the "cold mix" type and is made by adding water to specially prepared powders, aged and frozen. Another vendor from outside the Borough but permanently trading in the town sells loose, heat-treated ice-cream. All other vendors sell pre-packed ice-cream.

Meat Inspection.

Inspection of meat at the Staithes Lane slaughterhouses, and meat traders shops in the Borough was regularly carried out during the year. There was a sharp increase in the number of animals slaughtered as compared with 1958. The following table shows the numbers of the various animals slaughtered during 1959.

Cattle	1326
Sheep	7256
Pigs	1609
Calves	89
Total.	<u>10,280</u>

This is an increase of 1,647 over 1958

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed.	1297	29	89	7256	1609
Number inspected.	1297	29	89	7256	1609
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	2	11	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	219	-	-	103	52
Percentage of no affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	16.96%	3.4%	2.2%	1.5%	3.23%

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	5	-	-	-	2
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.4%	-	-	-	0.12%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally con- demned.	-	-	-	-	-

The weight of meat organs and offals condemned and surrendered during the year was:-

46 tons 18 cwts 1 qr. 0 sts. 5 lbs.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtermen

The Council owned slaughterhouses at Staithes Lane were again kept under constant supervision to maintain working efficiency. The premises were redecorated and many repair works carried out.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 and The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 came into force on 1st January 1959 with some Hygiene Regulations deferred until a date to be appointed by the Minister. The slaughterhouses at Staithes Lane fall considerably short of the new regulations' requirements and the Council is required to consider future policy for the provision of slaughtering facilities in the Borough and submit a report thereon by November 1st, 1960, to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Meanwhile everything is being done to produce meat as hygienically as is possible, with the present accommodation.

Sixteen slaughtermens licences were approved by the Council for renewal during the year.

Food Premises - Food Hygiene Regulations .

Premises used for storage, preparation and sale of foodstuffs were frequently visited during the year to ensure they were being kept at an acceptable standard of cleanliness. It is pleasing to report that no case arose requiring intervention by the Council, all matters requiring some attention being dealt with amicably between the Health Inspector and the persons concerned.

Educational Activity (Food)

Emphasis on the production of clean food and hygienic practices in the handling of food was kept before the minds of those in this responsible trade, throughout the year, by many visits to their premises to talk over any problems connected with food and the personnel engaged in handling food. The latter task at times becomes something of a problem by reason of frequent changes in **staffs of** food premises. This means constant vigilance over shops to ensure that all new members of staffs are fully acquainted with what is required of them in handling food. It is something of a disappointment when after considerable effort to educate staffs on hygienic handling of food, one learns of trained staff leaving the trade, for some more lucrative work.

Food Inspection.

During the year, the undermentioned foodstuffs were inspected, condemned and destroyed:--

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation.	Weight.	
		Lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meats	Inadequate processing	132	11
Tinned Fruits	Fermentation	35	12
Tinned Vegetables	Fermentation	2	0
Tinned Preserve	Mould	2	0
Tinned Milk	Blown Tin	1	8
Fresh Meat	Malodorous	124	0
Fresh Pork	Malodorous	47	0
Total.....		344	15

As in past years, all condemned foodstuffs were disposed of under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector, either by incineration or deep burial or removal for processing into fertilisers and other by-products. All meat used for processing was coloured by a conspicuous vegetable dye before removal, to prevent its improper use

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years.	15 - 24 years.	25 - 34 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over	TOTAL.
Dysentery.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Meningitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Measles.	5	50	47	120	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225
Total.	6	51	47	122	3	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	234.

Measles. The year 1959 saw the largest epidemic of Measles that has occurred in the Borough for many years. The outbreak began in February and reached its peak in May (75 cases) and June (70 cases) and stopped at the end of July. In all, 225 cases were notified but no deaths occurred from the disease.

Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases. It will be seen from the above table that, apart from Measles, notifications of infectious disease, were, again, very few in number.

Diphtheria Immunisation. No case of Diphtheria has occurred in the past 11 years and no death from this cause has occurred in the past 13 years.

During the year, 184, pre-school and 7 school children completed a course of primary immunisation and 105 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31.12.59 it was estimated that the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.	21.79%
Children aged 1 - 4 years.	72.95%
Children aged 5 - 14 years.	52.6%
All children under 15 years.	55.94%

These figures are satisfactory in so far as the pre-school children are concerned but it was again impossible to carry out any diphtheria immunisation in the schools and this is reflected in the very substantial drop in the index for school children. With the

slackening of the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign at the end of the year and with the promise of assistance from the School Medical Officer, however, it is anticipated that immunisation in the schools will be resumed in 1960, with consequent improvement in the index.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Towards the end of 1958, the upper age-limit for vaccination was raised to 25 years but the young people showed little interest in it until the spring of 1959, when the death of a well-known young footballer from Poliomyelitis resulted in a rush for vaccination. For a time, the demand was almost overwhelming, and, in an effort to meet it, open sessions, without appointments, were held in the Town Hall, Morpeth in April and May. In 1½ days, 538 persons, mainly between the ages of 15 and 25 years, attended for the first injection and the vast majority of these returned for the second injection. There was also an extremely good response, 7 months later, to invitations to attend for the third injection.

Separate figures are not available for the Borough but the following figures for the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

During the year 1959, the primary course of two injections was completed by 7,918 persons and 9,386 received a third injection.

At 31st December 1959, it was estimated that, since the commencement of the campaign, 14,111 children and 5,293 persons in other groups had received two injections and 12,793 persons in all eligible groups had received a third injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Total	Deaths.			
	Resp		Non-Resp.			Resp		Non-Resp	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.	1	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years and over.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total.....	6	2	-	1	9	-	-	-	-

There was an increase of 4 notified cases of Tuberculosis from the previous year.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population.

Nil

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1000 of the population in England and Wales.

0.07

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1959.

	Males.						Females.				
	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 yrs & over	TOTAL.	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 yrs & over	TOTAL.
Oesophagus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lung and Bronchus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Breast.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Stomach	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Pancreas.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gall-bladder & Bile Duct	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
Colon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
Kidney.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rectum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prostate	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bladder	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Leukaemia.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.	1	1	1	1	4	8	3	-	7	1	11

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth.	0.171 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	0.464 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth.	1.449 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	1.676 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth.	1.62 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	2.14 per 1,000

